

Study #10 Recreation Facility and Condition Inventory

November 28, 2001

1.0 Introduction/Background

An inventory of recreation facilities and their conditions is required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Results of this study will be used to develop protection, enhancement, and mitigation measures (PMEs) regarding recreation facility upgrades. Additionally, this study will provide information to support Study #2—Recreation Safety Assessment; Study #5—Assess Recreation Areas Management; Study #6—ADA Accessibility; Study #8—Carrying Capacity Study; Study #7—Reservoir Boating Survey, and Study #14—Assess Regional Recreation and Barriers to Recreation.

2.0 Study Objectives

The objectives of this study are to inventory existing facilities, determine their conditions, and identify maintenance issues.

3.0 Relationship to Relicensing/Need for the Study

This study is needed to meet FERC's direction for preparing recreation resource reports. Specifically FERC guidelines state the recreational resources report must contain, "a description of any existing recreational facilities at the project...a statement of the existing measures or facilities to be continued or maintained..." (Chapter 1, Subpart F, Section 4.51 of 18 CFR).

The Harza/EDAW team conducted a preliminary facilities review earlier this year. Field notes about site conditions were compiled and sites were photographed as part of the preliminary review. This study will expand on previous agency studies and the Harza/EDAW preliminary review in order to provide the most current facilities assessment.

Study results will address Issue Statement R1—adequacy of existing project recreation facilities, opportunities, and access to accommodate current use and future demand. Specific issues that will be addressed include: RE 1, 2, 5-17, 19-39, 55, 56, 60, 64-83, 95, 96, 104, and 105.

4.0 Study Area

The Study Area includes Lake Oroville, the lands and waters within and adjacent to (1/4 mile) the FERC project boundary, and adjacent lands, facilities, and areas with a clear project nexus. The following developed recreation areas and sites are included:

Campgrounds

Bidwell Canyon Campground

Floating Campsites

Bloomer Cove Boat-In Campsite (BIC)	Lime Saddle Campground
Bloomer Knoll BIC	Lime Saddle Group Campground
Bloomer Point BIC	Loafer Creek Campground
Bloomer Group BIC	Loafer Creek Group Campground
Craig Saddle BIC	Loafer Creek Horse Campground
Foreman Creek BIC	Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA) (Larkin Road Camping Area)
Goat Ranch BIC	Thermalito North Forebay Recreational Vehicle (RV) “en route” Campground

Day Use Areas (DUAs)

Lake Oroville Visitor Center	Saddle Dam DUA
Lime Saddle DUA	Thermalito North Forebay DUA
Bidwell Canyon DUA	Thermalito South Forebay DUA
Loafer Creek DUA	Monument Hill DUA (off Highway 162)
Oroville Dam Overlook Area	Thermalito Afterbay Wilbur Road DUA
Spillway DUA	Thermalito Afterbay Larkin Road DUA
DUA at Burma Rd. and Lakeland Blvd.	

Boat Launch Areas (BLAs)

Lime Saddle BLA	Foreman Creek Car-Top BLR
Loafer Creek BLA	Dark Canyon Car-Top BLR
Bidwell Canyon BLA	Stringtown Car-Top BLR
Enterprise Boat Launch Ramp (BLR)	Vinton Gulch Car-Top BLR
North and South Forebay BLAs	Feather River within OWA
Nelson Bar Car-Top BLR	

Other Recreational Facilities with Project Nexus

Floating Restrooms	Aquatic Center
Brad P. Freeman Bicycle Trail	Fish Hatchery
Dan Beebe Equestrian Trail	Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA)
Lake Oroville Equestrian Trail	Model Aircraft Flying Area
Diversion Pool	

5.0 General Approach

Detailed Methodology and Analysis Procedures

This study will provide a detailed inventory and evaluation of recreation facilities, use areas, and conditions for each of the sites within the Study Area. The study will focus on developing a good inventory of the supply of Study Area developed facilities, dispersed use areas, and trails as listed above.

The team will use GPS to pinpoint maintenance problems. Specific areas of interest include the physical condition of facilities and use areas and ongoing operations and maintenance issues. Site information will be collected by completing a detailed inventory and conditions analysis of identified Study Area-related sites. The overall inventory will serve as a baseline for future needs assessment work and for future long-term monitoring efforts. An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) facilities accessibility assessment is a key part of the inventory. A universal accessibility assessment will be conducted in Study #6—ADA Accessibility.

The Harza/EDAW team preliminary facilities review will need to be updated by verifying current conditions of Study Area facilities. All of the sites and facilities within the Study Area will be revisited and their condition assessed for changes from those documented when the preliminary facilities review occurred. An inventory will be conducted for the sites that have been constructed since the preliminary facilities review occurred, such as Lime Saddle Campground.

Task 1—Develop Inventory and Condition Forms

Standard inventory and facility condition forms have been developed and were used for assessing sites (see Appendix A for sample inventory form; see Appendix B for sample conditions form). Existing data from Study Area management agencies (California Departments of Water Resources (DWR), Parks and Recreation (DPR), and Fish and Game (DFG), and the Butte Sailing Club (BSC)) may supplement field observations.

Task 2—Photographs of Facility Conditions

Photographic documentation has been collected for the purpose of representing the variety of facility conditions. Sites with new facilities will be visited and sites where conditions have changed will be revisited to be photographed. These will likely be included as an appendix in the Draft Final Report.

Task 3—Facility and Site Inventory

Methods for the analysis involve the review of existing information, consultation with site managers and/or private operators, and previous site-specific field investigations. The inventory forms developed in Task 1 will be filled out in Task 3. Existing conditions will be identified and documented through field reconnaissance, and notes will be revalidated and documented in tabular format. Potentially unsafe conditions and signs of overuse will be noted. Planned or future recreation facilities or use areas will be documented through review of existing plans and through consultation. Facilities that will be expanded or upgraded in the future will be noted. Interviews will be held with Study Area managing agencies and other recreation providers in the Study Area to determine the specific concerns and planned improvements.

The fieldwork included in this task will be done in conjunction with Study #11—Recreation and Public Use Impact Assessment. While in the field, inventory data will be also be collected on observed day or overnight use, fire rings, trail or road access, picnic tables, parking, tent pads, etc. (Attachment A.)

Task 4—Facility Condition Assessment

The facility condition forms developed in Task 1 will be filled out in Task 4. To characterize facility conditions, each site will be rated using specific criteria. Four qualitative criteria will be used including:

- (N) = needs replacement (broken or missing components, or non-functional);

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- (R) = needs repair (structural damage or otherwise in obvious disrepair);
 - (M) = needs maintenance (primarily cleaning); and
 - (G) = is in good condition (functional and well-maintained).

Unsafe conditions and signs of overuse will be noted. Public use impact data that will be collected as part of Study #11 will also be used as part of the condition assessment. In making this assessment, existing project management agency data will be used where appropriate.

Task 5—Other FERC-Required Data Collection

FERC requires a discussion of National Recreation Trails and federal Wild and Scenic Rivers (existing and candidate). These resources will be documented. Several of these specific resources are located in the area surrounding the Study Area (Middle Fork Feather River).

Task 6—Draft Final Report Preparation

The results of Tasks 1 through 5 will be presented in a Draft Final Report. The report will include tables with detailed listings of facilities available at each site; text descriptions of facilities; site photography; facility condition ratings; and a discussion of operations and maintenance issues at each site. Additionally, planned or future recreation facilities or use areas will be documented.

6.0 Results and Products/Deliverables

Results

Results will describe current conditions of facilities. Additionally, this study will provide information to support other studies such as Studies #2, #6, #7, #8, and Study #17—Recreation Needs Analysis. The findings of this study will also be used to make recommendations for facilities improvements or new construction. These findings will be presented in Study #17. Results of this study will be used to develop proposed project PMEs regarding recreation facility upgrades.

Products/Deliverables

The following products will be developed for this study:

- GIS layer of maintenance condition categories
- Facility Inventory Form
- Facility Condition Form
- Draft Final Report

The report will contain an executive summary; an introduction with goals and objectives; methods; results; and a discussion.

7.0 Coordination and Implementation Strategy

Coordination with Other Resource Areas/Studies

This study will require coordination with Studies #2, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #17.

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking and/or Regulatory Compliance Requirements

Results of this study will address Issue Statement R1—adequacy of existing project recreation facilities, opportunities, and access to accommodate current use and future demand. Specific issues that will be addressed include RE 1, 2, 5-17, 19-39, 55, 56, 60, 64-83, 95, 96, 104 and 105.

8.0 Study Schedule

Data collection: September through October 2002.

Data analysis and report writing: October 2002 through February 2003.

Draft Final Report due: March 2003.

Appendix A Facilities Inventory Form

SITE NAME		DATE		
		RESEARCHER		
OPERATOR		PHOTOS		
			ROLL	NUMBER

RECREATION FACILITIES

CAMPING

Pay Station/Self-Serve (S) or Staffed Booth (B)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primitive Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessible Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overflow Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
RV Hookup Site/Full (F) or Partial (P)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campground Amphitheater	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campground shelter/kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rental Cabin/bunkhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES:

PRELIMINARY SAMPLE

DAY USE/PICKNICKING

Picnic table/accessible (a)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground/activity area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpretive display	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bench	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire ring/constructed (c) or user-defined (u)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooking grill	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shade trees (t)/grass area (g)	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES:

SWIMMING

Designated swim area with markers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming beach	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety sign or apparatus	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES:

BOATING & FISHING

Boat ramp (# lanes)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car top boat ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marina (# boat slips)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courtesy dock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service dock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breakwater/floating boom	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation/information buoy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shoreline fishing access/accessible (a)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pier/dock fishing/accessible (a)	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES:

RECREATION ACCESS

VEHICULAR

- Main paved access road ☐
- Secondary gravel or dirt road ☐
- Single vehicle parking/ # spaces or undef. (u) ☐
- Boat trailer parking/# trailers and vehicles ☐
- Extra car parking ☐
- Accessible parking space ☐

NOTES:

PRELIMINARY SAMPLE

PEDESTRIAN

- Path to facilities/accessible (a) ☐
- Multi-use trail ☐
- Trail sign ☐
- Trailhead parking ☐

NOTES:

HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICES

SANITARY

- Restroom facility ☐
- Toilet building ☐
- Toilet/pit (p), vault (v), flush (f), portable (x) ☐
- Accessible restroom facility ☐
- Accessible toilet/same categories as above ☐
- Disposal station/boat (b) or RV (r) ☐

NOTES:

UTILITIES

- Water faucet ☐
- Drinking fountain ☐
- Hot water ☐
- Shower ☐
- Trash receptacle ☐
- Trash dumpster ☐
- Greywater pump ☐
- Telephone ☐

NOTES:

UTILITIES

- Caretaker/camp host/manager ☐
- Firewood distribution ☐

NOTES:

Appendix B

Condition Of Recreation Facilities and Use Areas Form

RECREATION FACILITY/USE AREA	RECREATION FACILITIES				HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICES				RECREATION ACCESS					COMMENTS
	\$	OVERNIGHT USE/CAMPING	DAY USE/PICKNICKING	SWIMMING	SANITARY	WATER	DISPOSAL	OTHER SERVICES	VEHICULAR	PEDESTRIAN	FISHING	BOATING/PWC	INFO	
		Pay Station (Self Serve (S), Staffed Booth (B))			Restroom - Accessible (Pl (P), Vault (V), Flush (F), Port (X), Composting (C))				Main Paved Access Road					
		Group Campsite			Restroom - Non-accessible (Pl (P), Vault (V), Flush (F), Port (X), Composting (C))				Secondary Gravel or Dirt Road					
		Primitive Campsite			Boat Disposal (B) / RV Tank Disposal Station (R)				Single Veh. Parking Area (If Veh. or Undefined (Und))					
		Developed Campsite			Water/Drinking Faucet				Boat Trailer Parking (If of Trailer/Veh or Undefined (Und))					
		Overflow Camping			Hot Water Available				Path to Facilities (Accessible (A), Non-accessible (N))					
		RV Hookup Site (Full Hookup (F), Partial Hookup (P))			Shower				Multi-use Trail - General Use					
		Campground Amphitheater			Trash Receptacle/Dumpster				Trail Sign					
		Campground Shelter/Kitchen			Greywater Sump				Trailhead Parking					
		Rental Cabin/Bunkhouse			Telephone				Shoreline Fishing Access					
		Playground/Activity Area			Camp Host/Caretaker/Manager				Accessible Fishing Site					
		Picnic Table (Accessible (A), Non-accessible (N))			Concession Stand/Store/Vending				Pier/Dock Fishing					
		Interpretive Display, Numerous (N)			Firewood Distribution				Boat Launch (If Lanes)					
		Day-Use Shelter							Car-Top Boat Launch					
		Picnic Fire Ring/BBO, Constructed (C) User-defined (U)							Maintenance (If Boat Slips)					
		Shade Trees (T)/Grass Area (G)							Boat Temp. Tie-up Dock (spaces)					
		Designated Swim Area w/ Boom							Boat Gas Service/Dock					
		Swimming Beach/Sand							Boat/Houseboat/PWC Rental					
		Safety Sign or Safety Apparatus							Breakwater/Floating Boom					
									Navigation/Info, Bury					
									Informational/Directional Sign					

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